repairs. The amount of investment required to bring back the other four units of NJMC to production, were considered to be much too large compared to the possible benefits from re-starting these four units. Hence, it was decided not to refer these units to BRPSE.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The restoration of electrictiy in all units of NJMC will entail likely expenditure of Rs. 8.5 crores. As NJMC is not generating any revenue of its own, it is not economically viable to restore electricity unless there is a viable production plan in place.

Demand of Indian clothes in foreign countries

†1882. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge demand of our clothes in foreign countries which are woven with Indian looms;

(b) the extent of foreign trade of clothes made with looms; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to assist this sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The principal product range woven on Indian handlooms having demand in foreign countries comprises fabrics, made-ups, clothing accessories and floor coverings. The scale of foreign trade of clothes made on handlooms is limited.

(c) The following steps are being taken to promote export of handlooms;

(i) Handloom Export Scheme under which financial assistance is provided for development of exportable range of products and international publicity and marketing thereof;

(ii) Organisation of fairs, exhibitions, Buyer Seller Meets by Handloom Export Promotion Council in overseas markets from time to time to provide the Indian handloom manufacturers and avenue for export market.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) Various export promotion schemes operated by the Department of Commerce such as Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB), Market Development Assistance (MDA) Market Access Initiative (MAI) etc.

Global demand for textile items

1883. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is spurt in global demand for textile items and that the small textile units are gearing up to do good business;

(b) if so, anticipated demand of Indian textile items during next three years and likely share of small sector mills and handlooms; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ensure that only international standard quality items are exported to give a regular work orders to weavers and handloom houses?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir. The free global trading regime would result in increased international trade in textiles thus providing greater export opportunities for the indigenous textile industry, including small textile units.

(b) With the removal of quotas, Indian textile exports are expected to cross $15 billion in 2005-06. However, a reasonable estimation about India's exports during next three years can be made only after the confirmed trends of global trade in textiles and clothing during the post quota period are available.

(c) Government has been taking a number of steps to promote textile exports and to ensure quality of textile export products, some of the important initiatives are as under:

(i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.

(ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.

(iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.